

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177837

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PORG, UN, US, CG

SUBJECT: BAKER AND NGUZA CONVERSATION JULY 28

1. DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
AFFAIRS JOHN BAKER MET WITH ZAIRIAN COMMISSIONER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS NGUZA KARL-I-BOND JULY 28 AT 11:30 A.M.
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED ZAIRE'S POSITION ON THE
KOREA AND PUERTO RICO ISSUES, ZIONISM/RACISM, AND HUMAN
RIGHTS IN AFRICA. BAKER OPENED CONVERSATION WITH PRAISE
FOR ZAIRE'S 1975 AND 1976 COOPERATION IN NAM AND UN
FORA ON KOREA AND PUERTO RICO ISSUES. BAKER NOTED THAT,
AS A RESULT OF RESERVATIONS AND OTHER ACTIONS BY ZAIRE
AND LIKE-MINDED NATIONS, OBJECTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS ON
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THESE SUBJECTS WERE NEVER PRESENTED AT LAST UNGA.

2. NGUZA REPLIED THAT ZAIRE'S POSITION ON BOTH ISSUES
IS UNCHANGED FROM LAST YEAR. ZAIRE DOES NOT BELIEVE
THAT NORTH KOREA CAN IMPOSE A RESOLUTION ON THE UNGA,
AS A PROBABLE MAJORITY OF THE NON-ALIGNED WOULD OPPOSE.
ZAIRE SUPPORTS US POSITION ON PUERTO RICO ON GROUNDS

THAT PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD AND CONTINUE TO HAVE
AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. BAKER ADDRESSED QUESTION OF APARTHEID, NOTING THAT

ANDY YOUNG MIGHT LEAD US DELEGATION TO AUGUST 22-26
ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN LAGOS. HOWEVER, US
ABILITY TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE AT LAGOS IN STRUGGLE
AGAINST APARTHEID WILL BE DIMINISHED IF LAGOS CONFERENCE
REVIVES ZIONISM/RACISM EQUATION. BAKER THEN NOTED
HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT MANY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS
INCLUDING ZAIRE FEEL THAT ZIONISM/RACISM IS A DIVISIVE
ISSUE WHICH DIMINISHES IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS
OF OTHER RACIAL ISSUES SUCH AS APARTHEID. ARAB
INSISTENCE ON THIS FORMULA ALSO HARMS THEIR POSITION IN
US BY INCREASING SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL.

4. MINISTER NGUZA RESPONDED THAT ZIONISM/RACISM
PROBLEM POINTS UP DIVISION OF AFRICA INTO BLACK AND ARAB
PORTIONS. FOR BLACKS, PROBLEM OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IS
ALL-IMPORTANT AND BLACKS WILL ACCEPT SUPPORT FROM ANY
QUARTER IN THEIR BATTLE AGAINST APARTHEID. HOWEVER,
BLACKS ALSO FEEL THAT THEIR CAUSE IS DAMAGED BY
RELATIONSHIP DRAWN BETWEEN ZIONISM AND APARTHEID AND
FEEL THAT BLACK AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE IN
MIDDLE EAST SHOULD BE ENOUGH. HOWEVER, ARABS WANT TO
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USE ZIONISM/RACISM AS BARGAINING CHIP ON MIDDLE EAST
AND PRESS AFRICANS FOR SUPPORT. NGUZA THEN VOLUNTEERED
HIS READINESS TO JOIN NIGERIAN FONMIN GARBA IN JOINT
DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TO OTHER BLACK AFRICAN STATES
REQUESTING THAT THEY AVOID EQUATING ZIONISM WITH
APARTHEID AS A FORM OF RACISM, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER
OR NOT THEY MAY BE OPPOSED TO ZIONISM.

5. FOLLOWING EXPRESSION FOR APPRECIATION OF NGUZA'S
INITIATIVE, BAKER NOTED THAT THE SAME ZIONISM/RACISM
PROBLEM CAN COME UP IN 1978 WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT
RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AS PART OF DECADE.
US, WHICH WAS AMONG FOUNDERS OF DECADE PROGRAM, WITHDREW
RELUCTANTLY WHEN CONNECTION WAS DRAWN BETWEEN DECADE
AND ZIONISM/RACISM. WHILE US WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE
IN CONFERENCE AND IN STRUGGLE AGAINST SUCH FLAGRANT
FORMS OF RACISM AS APARTHEID, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT
FOR US TO DO SO UNLESS IT IS CLEAR THAT CONFERENCE
WILL NOT ACT ON PROPOSALS BASED ON ZIONISM/RACISM
EQUATION.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING OAU VIEW OF HUMAN

RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN AFRICA, NGUZA NOTED THAT US SHOULD NOT PUBLICLY CRITICIZE ITS AFRICAN FRIENDS ON THIS SUBJECT. SUCH CRITICISM MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO ACT IN FORA SUCH AS OAU, AS AFRICANS CANNOT BE SEEN TO BE BOWING BEFORE EXTERNAL PRESSURE. THIS WAS

REASON WHY CRITICISM OF UGANDA AT COMMONWEALTH HAD NO EFFECT OR EVEN NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OAU, EVEN THOUGH THAT BODY IS OPPOSED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN UGANDA AND ETHIOPIA.

7. BAKER AGREED WITH GENERAL THRUST OF NGUZA'S STATEMENT AND NOTED THAT EXPRESSIONS OF US CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE REDUCED IF US
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PERCEIVED A GROWING TENDENCY ON PART OF AFRICAN STATES TO ADDRESS AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS EFFECTIVELY AT THEIR OWN INITIATIVE THROUGH AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

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